

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SOFIA 00919 011535Z

41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 DHA-02 ORM-02 SCA-01 VO-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AGR-05 /092 W

----- 008677

P 300632Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1162

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 0919

MADRID FOR SECRETARY BUTZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, CVIS, PINS, BU

SUBJECT: GOB PROVIDES DETAILS ON 42 DIVIDED FAMILY CASES APPROVED

REF: SOFIA 900, 906

1. SUMMARY: CONSULAR DEPT OF MFA HAS PROVIDED DETAILS OF FORTY-TWO DIVIDED FAMILY CASES APPROVED BY GOB; HAS REQUESTED ADDITIONAL DATA ON SOME CASES WHICH CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED BY BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES; IS "RESTDYING" COLLINS CASE; BUT STILL BALKY AT PROVIDING LIST OF THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET FILED PROPER DOCUMENTS ND STILL INCLINED TO RAISE LEGALISMS. IN REPLY, WE HAVE EMPHASIZED SWEEPING NATURE OF ZHIVKOV'S STATEMENT TO SECRETARY BUTZ AND THROUGH THE SECRETARY TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF USG. WE HAVE STATED OUR HOPE THAT THIS STATESMANLIKE ACTION TO FURTHER NORMALIZE OUR RELATIONS WILL NOT BECOME ENCUMBERED WITH TECHNICALITIES. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SOFIA 00919 011535Z

2. AT MFA REQUEST, CHARGE AND CONSUL CALLED ON

ACTING CHIEF OF CONSULAR DEPT KOVACHEV APRIL 29 TO DISCUSS FOLLOW-UP ON DIVIDED FAMILIES. (WE EARLIER HAD REQUESTED MEETING WITH ACTING HEAD OF AMERICAS DEPT TO DO THE SAME BUT IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON POLITICAL RATHER THAN CONSULAR ASPECTS. UNFORTUNATELY, KARADJOV IS TAKING LEAVE FOLLOWING SECRETARY BUTZ' VISIT.)

3. KOVACHEV PROVIDED LIST OF FORTY-TWO (42) CASES APPROVED AND REQUESTED ADDITIONAL IDENTIFYING DATA IN FOUR FURTHER CASES. THESE DETAILS BEING REPORTED SEPTEL. IN STRONG INDICATION GOB UNDERSTANDS MORE SUCH CASES LIKELY TO EVENTUATE, KOVACHEV ASKED THAT IN FUTURE EMBASSY PROVIDE PATRONYMIC, DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH, ETC. IN ORDER TO PERMIT MORE EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING FROM BULGARIAN SIDE. HE BALKED, HOWEVER, AT PROVIDING LIST OF CASES IN WHICH "PROPER PAPERS" HAD NOT BEEN FILED AND, AS HE HAS IN PAST, EMPHASIZED THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO HAVE NOT FORMALLY RENOUNCED BULGARIAN NATIONALITY ARE STILL CONSIDERED TO BE BULGARIAN AND MUST APPLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH BULGARIAN LAW AND REGULATION, I.E. TO BULGARIAN EMBASSIES ABROAD, WHEN THEY WISH TO SPONSOR RELATIVES' VISITS.

4. NOTING HE HAD BEEN PRESENT DURING ZHIVKOV-BUTZ CONVERSATION, CHARGE EMPHASIZED CATEGORICAL NATURE OF ZHIVKOV'S STATEMENT, AS WELL AS FACT BULGARIAN CHIEF OF STATE HAD STATED LISTS WOULD BE PROVIDED AND THAT IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR EMBASSY TO CONTACT THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET FILED PROPER APPLICATIONS. HE POINTED OUT ALSO THAT UNDER AMERICAN LAW IT WAS COMPLETELY PROPER FOR U.S. CITIZENS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ALSO HELD BULGARIAN NATIONALITY, TO APPLY TO U.S. AUTHORITIES. PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV HAD TOLD SECRETARY BUTZ GOB HAS DECIDED DIVIDED FAMILY CASES WILL BE SETTLED EXPEDITIOUSLY AND HAD ASKED THIS INFORMATION TO BE CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER. WE CONSIDERED PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV HAD TAKEN A WISE AND STATESMANLIKE STEP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SOFIA 00919 011535Z

TOWARD IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS ON A BROAD FRONT, WITH SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC, AS WELL AS CONSULAR IMPLICATIONS. TECHNICALITIES SHOULD NOT STAND IN THE WAY. KOVACHEV ASSURED US ZHIVKOV'S WISHES WOULD BE FULLY CARRIED OUT AND THAT IT WAS NOT INTENTION OF CONSULAR DEPT TO RAISE IMPEDIMENTA.

5. CHARGE ALSO NOTED COLLINS CASE HAD BEEN RAISED WITH PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV WHO, AFTER LEARNING DETAILS, HAD SAID THIS MATTER TOO WOULD BE SETTLED. KOVACHEV SAID COLLINS CASE HAD BEEN REFERRED BACK TO "APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES" FOR RESTUDY FOLLOWING COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT'S CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR POPOV. HE WAS SURE WORD OF ZHIVKOV'S STATEMENT HAD ALSO BEEN CONVEYED AND EXPECTED "APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES" WOULD REACH EARLY DECISION.

6. COMMENT: FORTY-TWO IS IN ITSELF A MAJOR BREAK-THROUGH, PARTICULARLY SINCE THERE ARE INCLUDED CASES WHICH, FROM THE BULGARIAN POINT OF VIEW, MUST BE VERY DIFFICULT TO SWALLOW. MOST OF THESE FORTY-TWO CASES INVOLVE SPONSORS WHO LEFT BULGARIA ILLEGALLY AND GOB DECISION TO REVERSE PREVIOUS POLICY OF "NOT REWARDING THOSE WHO HAVE BROKEN THE LAW" MUST HAVE BEEN MADE BY ZHIVKOV PERSONALLY. AS STATED, WE ARE ADDITIONALLY ENCOURAGED THAT GOB UNDERSTANDS NEW CASES WILL ARISE AND APPARENTLY INTENDS TO PROCESS THEM. NATURALLY WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR THE TWELVE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION, FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF THE THIRTEEN NON-APPLIERS AND, OF COURSE, ON THE COLLINS MATTER. BUT CREDIT SHOULD BE GIVEN WHERE DUE: THAT IS, TO ZHIVKOV AND WHOEVER ELSE PARTICIPATED IN THE DECISION TO REMOVE THIS LONG-STANDING IRRITANT. FELDMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS, EXIT VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SOFIA00919
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760167-0239
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976042/aaaaabgi.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SOFIA 900
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <30 JUL 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOB PROVIDES DETAILS ON 42 DIVIDED FAMILY CASES APPROVED
TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, CVIS, PINS, BU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006